

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAIGON 13653 260756Z

16
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 SS-15 SP-02 L-01 H-01 INR-05

RSC-01 EB-04 /043 W
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R 260415Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9853

S E C R E T SAIGON 13653

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, VS
SUBJECT: LEVEL OF FY 1976 MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR VIET-NAM

REF: STATE 231869

1. THE \$1.2 BILLION ESTIMATE FOR FY 76 WAS MADE ON ASSUMPTION OF \$1.4 BILLION AVAILABILITIES IN FY 75. WE SHOULD BE EXTREMELY REALISTIC THAT EVEN IF WE GET THE \$300 MILLION SUPPLEMENTAL WE WILL STILL NOT HAVE HAD THE INVESTMENT ITEMS NECESSARY FOR THE PLANNED MODERNIZATION OF RVNAF. I THINK IT ESSENTIAL THAT THIS POINT BE STRESSED AT THE OMB HEARINGS.

2. THE DEPARTMENT IS CORRECT THAT WE HAVE NOT YET COMPLETED WORK ON FY 76 SUBMISSION WHICH WILL BE DONE IN TWO PRESENTATIONS. THE FIRST WILL CONVEY A ROCK BOTTOM ESTIMATE OF ACTUAL NEEDS, INCLUDING DEFERRED INVESTMENT ITEMS WHICH WILL OBVIOUSLY BE IN EXCESS OF THE \$1 BILLION SECDEF GUIDANCE. WE WILL SUBMIT AT THE SAME TIME A PROGRAM GEARED TO THE \$1 BILLION. I, THEREFORE, HOPE THAT THE DEPARTMENT AT THE 5 NOVEMBER HEARINGS STRESSES THE POINT THAT \$1.2 BILLION WILL BE AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM FIGURE IF WE ARE TO ATTEMPT TO EVEN DECENTLY COVER THE ACTUAL REQUIREMENTS. WE WOULD ALSO HOPE THAT IN THE BUDGET PRESENTATION THE POINT MAY BE MADE THAT DECISIONS MADE IN HANOI MAY REQUIRE ADDITIONAL AMOUNT.

MARTIN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: shawdg
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